

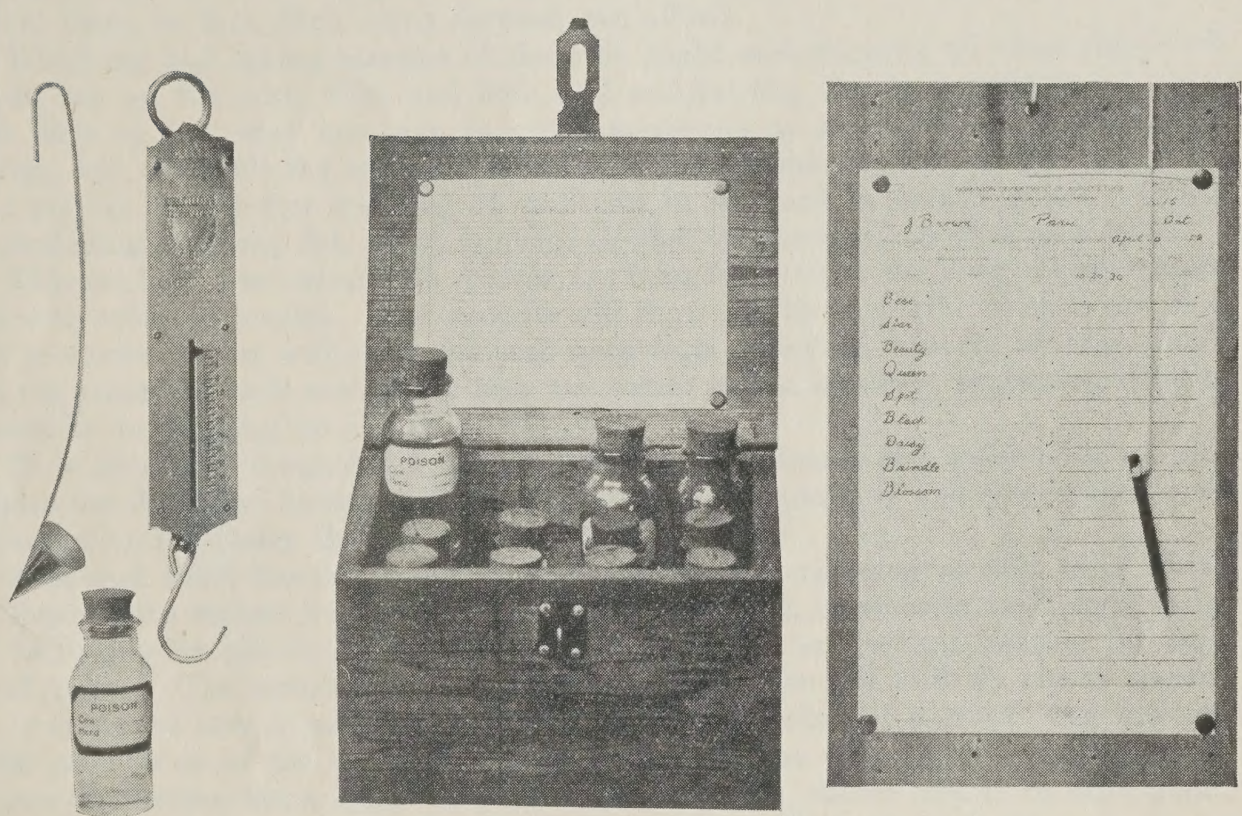
Gov. Doc.
Can
Ag

Canada, Agric. Dept.

LIBRARY
JUL 5 1922
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

3 1761 12000514 5

KEEPING DAIRY HERD RECORDS




A Complete Cow-Testing Outfit for the Farm

DOMINION OF CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PAMPHLET No. 13—NEW SERIES

The Dairy and Cold Storage Branch
J. A. RUDDICK, COMMISSIONER

Published by Direction of the Hon. W. R. MOTHERWELL, Minister of Agriculture
Ottawa, 1922



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2024 with funding from
University of Toronto

<https://archive.org/details/31761120005145>

KEEPING DAIRY HERD RECORDS

The most accurate records will undoubtedly be obtained by weighing and testing each milking. This method, however, entails a considerable amount of time and labour; more, in fact, than many farmers can afford.

Weighing and taking samples of the milk night and morning on three days each month, say on the 10th, 20th and 30th and multiplying the total weights on these three days by ten, may not give as accurate results as weighing and testing each milking, but when all the cows are tested in the same manner, the results will show quite plainly the relative standing of each cow in the herd in regard to her capacity for producing milk and fat, which is about all that the majority of dairymen want.

This method of securing milk records has been followed by the Dairy Branch since 1904 with splendid results. Such records will show exactly the value of each cow as a milk producer. They will show the best cows from which to raise heifer calves and, with the record of each cow before him, the owner of the herd has something definite to work on in building up a dairy herd.

It is generally recognized now that keeping herd records is a good business proposition for the dairy farmer and many are taking advantage of the cow-testing work carried on by the Dairy Branch.

A special effort has been made to devise a plan for carrying on this work which will interest the makers and managers of cheese factories, creameries, milk condensing and milk powder plants. We believe these places are convenient centres for herd record work. The samples are conveniently collected on the milk or cream wagons and it is always easy to communicate with the farmers who are patrons. An increase in the production of the herds in the district means not only greater returns to the farmers themselves, but a larger output for the creamery, cheese factory or milk plant, thus ensuring a larger revenue for those who are depending on it.

All that is necessary to organize and carry on cow-testing work in any district is close co-operation between the tester and the farmer. If the makers and managers of the cheese factories, creameries, milk condensing and milk powder plants will interest themselves sufficiently to make known to their patrons that they will test any composite herd samples delivered to them, I am sure they will always find some farmers interested enough to take up the work.

The Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, will pay to any qualified tester the sum of 10 cents for each Babcock test made from the composite samples of any herd. Payments will be made monthly by cheque. (No payments will be made for tests of skim-milk or cream.) The parties who do the testing must provide their own Babcock tester and the necessary glassware and equipment for making the test.

The department will provide, free of charge, the sulphuric acid preservative tablets, return envelopes, credit slips, labels for the composite sample bottles and blank forms for recording the weights of milk at the farms. If the testers wish to use their own sulphuric acid, the department will allow them 12 cents instead of 10 cents for each test. The duties of the testers will be to test the composite samples each month, enter the tests in the per cent fat column on the record sheets and forward the sheets promptly to the Dairy Commissioner, Ottawa. They must also wash and scald the composite sample bottles and corks and, when thoroughly dry, place the preservative tablets in the bottles and provide each farmer with the necessary blank sheets each month.

A FEW NOTES FOR THE TESTERS

There should be close co-operation between the milk tester and the farmers who are keeping herd records.

Every month as the date for testing approaches, the milk tester should remind each member that the samples must be in on time. If the testing is done promptly and the bottles washed and returned before the next date for weighing and sampling, it will encourage the farmers to also be prompt in doing their part of the work.

Carelessness or indifference on the part of either the farmer or milk tester is certain to result in injury to the whole scheme.

When the samples are delivered to the testing point, the milk tester should see that the record sheet (which should always accompany the box) is properly filled in, as shown on page 6. The age, breed and date of freshening need only be given once. Be sure that the name and post office address of each farmer is on the record sheet; also the tester's name and post office address.

The box containing the bottles should always be returned to the farmer before the next date for weighing and sampling.

For instructions in the testing of composite samples, milk testers are referred to Bulletin No. 45, copies of which may be secured by writing to the Dairy Commissioner, Ottawa.

Aside from being particular about having the samples properly prepared for testing and being accurate in measurements and readings, the most important point is not to mix the numbers. The Babcock test bottles should be at all times plainly numbered and kept in proper rotation.

When the testing is completed for the month, the record sheets should be promptly forwarded to Ottawa by the milk tester. Failure to do this results in delay and causes the owner to lose interest. Place the sheets together, according to herd numbers, attach milk tester's credit slip showing the number of tests made and total money due for testing, fold them only once and mail in the addressed envelope provided for this purpose.

The milk testers will please remember that the information given on the record sheets belongs to the owners of the herds and must be treated as strictly confidential.

No postage is necessary on record sheets or correspondence addressed to the Dairy Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

AT THE FARMS

The farmers must provide themselves with the following equipment:—

One 40-pound spring scale.

One 4-ounce sample bottle for each cow in the herd.

One small dipper for taking the samples for Babcock test.

One box for holding the composite sample bottles.

The total cost for twelve cows will be about \$4.

This entire outfit (a cut of which is shown on the cover) can be purchased from any of the following dairy supply houses:—

G. A. Gillespie, Peterborough, Ont.; W. A. Drummond & Co., 214 King street East, Toronto, Ont.; C. Richardson & Co., St. Mary's, Ont., Calgary, Alta., Winnipeg, Man., and Vancouver, B.C.; Morgan's Supply House, London, Ont.; G. E. Booth, Ingersoll, Ont.; R. M. Ballantyne, Ltd., Stratford, Ont.; D. H. Burrell & Co., Brockville, Ont.; D. Derbyshire Co., Ltd., Brockville, Ont.; The Lawrence Dairy Supply Co., Ltd., 87 Besserer street, Ottawa, Ont.; De Laval Co., Ltd., Peterborough, Ont., 21-23 St. Peter street, Montreal, Que., Winnipeg, Man., and Vancouver, B.C.; The Smith Hardware Co., Belleville, Ont.; B. Trudel & Co., 38 d'Youville Square, Mont-

real, Que.; Ellis & Grogan, Calgary, Alta.; W. H. Gunn & Co., Vancouver, B.C.; Dillon & Spillett, Charlottetown, P.E.I.; Alberta Dairy Supplies, Ltd., Edmonton, Alta.

If the weights alone are taken, it will only be necessary to provide a scale. Blank forms for recording the weights of milk will be furnished free of charge by the department and can be secured from the local tester or the Dairy Commissioner, Ottawa.

The farmers will weigh the milk and take a sample night and morning on three days each month at intervals of 10 days. The dates for weighing and sampling should be arranged between the tester and the herd owner. The weights must be entered plainly in the proper columns on the record sheet. The name of the cow should be given on each sheet as well as her number and, on the first sheet sent in after freshening, the breed, age and date of calving must be given, as shown on page 4. The farmers are expected to deliver their composite samples and the record sheets to the testing point on the dates arranged for by the tester.

When the records are received in the office at Ottawa, the amount of milk and fat for each cow is calculated for 30 days and the figures entered on the sheets and they are returned to the owner of the herd. At the end of the milking period, a summary of the total milk and fat produced by each cow in the herd will be sent to the owner.

A FEW NOTES FOR HERD OWNERS

The owner's name should be put on the outside of the sample bottle box. Each bottle should be numbered to correspond with the numbers of the cows to be tested. The numbers should be put on so as to show plainly when the bottles are placed in the box. See illustrations on the cover. If possible, use enamel paint to mark the numbers on the bottles. Paper labels come off in the washing.

See that each bottle contains a preservative tablet when the first sample of milk is put in, and that the corks or covers fit properly. During June, July and August it is advisable to use two tablets.

Consult with the milk tester as to the best dates on which to weigh and take samples.

Keep the samples in a cool place. Avoid shaking the bottles violently, as there is a danger of churning the milk.

Keep the sample box locked and away from children, as the preservative tablets used in the samples are poisonous.

Always place the record sheet in the sample box when sending it to the testing point.

It is a good plan to keep on hand a copy of the record sheet so that the names of the cows may be entered on the sheet in the same order each month.

The best results are secured when record-keeping is made a permanent practice and continued from month to month and from year to year.

Do the work carefully and remember that the information obtained from this work is for your own guidance in improving your herd.

J. A. RUDOLCK,
COMMISSIONER,
OTTAWA.

Form C. T. No. 35.
150 m. 3-15

DOMINION DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

OFFICE OF THE DAIRY AND COLD STORAGE COMMISSIONER.

HEAD No. 4

MILK RECORD FOR 30 DAYS ENDING

March 31 1917

Name.

John Smith

P.O.

Dorville

Prov.

Ont

Record Centre.

Testing Branch.

Black River

DESCRIPTION OF COWS.					COW No.	3 Days' WEIGHINGS OF MILK.				Total Pounds of MILK calculated.	FAT,	
NAME.	BREED.	Age.	Date of last Calf	D A T E S.			Per Cent.	Total Pounds.				
Blossom	Grade Ayrshire	5	Feb. 10	1	a.m.	19	17 1/2	16				
					p.m.	17	16	15				
Beauty	Grade Holstein	4	Feb 19	2	a.m.	17	14	16				
					p.m.	14	14	16				
White	Grade.	11	Mar 1	3	a.m.	13	14	12				
					p.m.	13	17	11				
				4	a.m.							
					p.m.							

GENERAL NOTES

The Department of Agriculture employs a Dairy Promoter for each province, except British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, the cow testing work in these provinces being under the supervision of the Provincial Dairy Branches. The duty of the Dairy Promoter is to assist in organizing and to supervise the cow testing work throughout the province. His services may be secured by addressing a letter to the Dairy Commissioner, Ottawa.

Where the testing is done at a cheese factory or creamery, it may not be convenient to have samples tested during the winter months. In this case, the farmer should keep a record of the weights of milk for each cow and the butterfat production can be calculated by taking the average test of the other months. This will give practically the same results as if the samples were tested every month.

Where cheese factories and creameries are operating the year round, the work should be continued for the full twelve months.

Individual farmers, who are not near a testing centre but wish to keep milk records, may obtain daily milk record forms, C.T. 18, or the three day a month forms, C.T. 35, with a small herd book by writing to the Dairy Commissioner. Feed record forms can also be obtained. When requesting record forms, please state the kind required.

No postage is required when writing to the Dairy Commissioner, Ottawa.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS OF THE DAIRY BRANCH RELATING TO DAIRYING
BULLETINS

Date Issued	No.	Title
1909	22	The Cooling of Milk for Cheesemaking.
1910	25	Coulommier Cheese, Some Notes on its Manufacture.
1911	45	The Testing of Milk, Cream and Dairy Products by Means of the Babcock Test.
1917	49	Small Cold Storages and Dairy Buildings.
1917	53	Buttermaking on the Farm.
1918	54	List of Creameries, Cheese Factories, Skimming Stations, also Condensed Milk Manufacturers, City Milk Vendors, and Ice Cream Manufacturers, etc., in Canada.
1919	55	The Finch Dairy Station, Report of Progress.
1919	57	Simple Methods of Storage of Ice.
1919	58	The Progress of Cow Testing.

CIRCULARS

1914	10	Notes on Cow Testing.
1915	14	Causes of Variation in the Percentage of Fat in Hand Separator Cream.
1915	16	Cow Testing Notes.
1916	18	The Use of Pepsin as Substitute or partial Substitute for Rennet in the Manufacture of Cheese.
1916	19	Directions for using Soluble Powdered Pepsin as a Substitute for Rennet.
1917	20	Cow Testing.
1919	26	The Care of Cream for Buttermaking.
1920	28	Dairy Industry Act, 1914, and Regulations.
1920	29	The Oleomargarine Act, 1919, as Amended and Regulations.
1921	30	Notes on the Cold Storage of Eggs.

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

Why and How to Use Milk.

A sufficient number of Bulletins 22 and Circulars 14, 16 and 20 will be sent to the manager of any cheese factory or creamery to supply each patron with one.

Any of these publications will be sent free of charge on application to the Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner, or to The Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ont.